

## Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 USIA-15 RSC-01 DRC-01

/049 W

----- 014066

R 291932Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6221

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 727

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP TD

SUBJECT: FY '74 COMMERCIAL ACTION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 31494; POS 1636

1. EMBASSY'S CAP TASK FORCE HAS MET AND REVIEWED WASHINGTON'S COMMENTS ON CAP FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. FOLLOWING IS KEYED TO LETTERED SUB-PARAGRAPHS IN PARAGRAPH 2 STATE 31494:

2. (A) WITH ONLY THREE MONTHS REMAINING IN FY 74, WE SEE LITTLE VALUE IN EXERCISE OF FURTHER REFINING CAP DRAFTED LAST DECEMBER. NEVERTHELESS, OUT COMMENTS FOLLOW:

(B) SUGGEST REWORDING OBJECTIVE ONE AS FOLLOWS: "SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ESTIMATED \$500 MILLION US INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS RELATED TO EXPLOITATION OF TRINIDAD'S ENERGY RESOURCES." THIS WOULD REFLECT FACT THAT LNG PROJECT IS NOT SUSPENDED (SEE POS A-07, JANUARY 16, 1974).

(C) NO COMMENTS NECESSARY.

(D) CONCUR AND SUGGEST REWORDING OF OBJECTIVE THREE AS FOLLOWS: "INCREASE U.S. SALES OF FOOD PROCESSING AND PACKAGING EQUIPMENT TO TRINIDAD. ACTION ONE: DEVELOP FIVE PROMISING TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS FIELD BY END OF FY 74."

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(E) WE WELCOME NEWS THAT COMMERCE IS PREPARING AN

OBR ON CARICOM AND WILL BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS PROPOSED FOR ACTION ONE THIS OBJECTIVE HAS PROVEN IMPOSSIBLE, DUE TO LACK OF DATA AND TO FACT THAT LOCAL PREOCCUPATION WITH ENERGY CRISIS AND RELATED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HAS GREATLY REDUCED ATTENTION PAID TO CARICOM. WITH REGARD TO REVERSE PREFERENCES, WE ARE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT GOTT NO LONGER NEEDS ANY PRODDING ON THIS SUBJECT. WHILE GOTT PROFESSES OPPOSITION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES (POS 716), OUR LATEST INFORMATION (STATE 35882) SAID ONLY THAT SUBJECT OF REVERSE PREFERENCES HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED IN TALKS BETWEEN EC AND ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE STATES. SEPTTEL DEALS WITH PROPOSED CARICOM COMMERCIAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.

MILLER

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## Message Attributes

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